

News Clippings

November 17, 2008

Emergency Response

Indianapolis

4 arrested in theft and abuse of Butler's bulldog costumes

[Read the Article](#)

Indianapolis

Four arrested in Butler bulldog costume theft

[Read the Article](#)

Rensselaer

Public invited to hazard mitigation meeting

[Read the Article](#)

Fire

Greene County

Local firefighters heroes honored

[Read the Article](#)

Indianapolis

Fire Marshal: School Blaze Intentionally Set

[Read the Article](#)

Muncie

Arson suspected in Heritage Hall fire

[Read the Article](#)

Flood

Columbus

USGS Releases Flood Report

[Read the Article](#)

Northwest Indiana

FEMA: Residents must protect themselves against floods

[Read the Article](#)

November 15, 2008

Butler bulldog mascot costumes found; 4 men arrested

4 arrested in theft and abuse of Butler's bulldog costumes

By Kevin O'Neal
kevin.oneal@indystar.com

The battered remains of Butler University's pilfered bulldog costumes have been found, a mess of foam and fabric damaged beyond repair.

A team of investigators from three police agencies broke the case this week, and the four men they say are behind the mascot crimes face felony charges of burglary and theft.

The big bulldogs typically cavort along the sidelines at football, basketball and other games, but Butler fans have had to do without since the costumes disappeared in August. Police say they are not certain why the four men took the costumes.

"My guess is they thought it was a prank," said Andy Ryan, assistant Butler University police chief. "They got into the fieldhouse, located the costumes and decided it would be fun to wear them."

College rivalries can often lead to pranks, such as the frequent disappearance of the Monon Bell. Yet, unlike the heavy metal bell that serves as the trophy for the winner of the Wabash-DePauw football game -- an icon that is all but impossible to damage -- the foam-and-cloth bulldog costumes were more vulnerable.

In a home near the campus, police recovered only a damaged body suit and a one-eyed head with a disfigured jowl and ear, said Levester Johnson, Butler's vice president for student affairs.

The four suspects are not Butler students. Austin Egenolf, 21, 8500 block of Jib Court; Kevin Templeman, 23, 8500 block of Twin Pointe Circle; Brian Templeman, 20, 600 block of University Street; and Rick Darragh, 21, West Lafayette, were arrested on warrants after formal charges were filed by the Marion County prosecutor.

Court records show warrants were issued Nov. 10, and all four were arrested Thursday and Friday, then freed on \$25,000 bond. They are scheduled for initial hearings Monday.

Butler police, led by Sgt. Alan Criswell and assisted by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, a consortium of law enforcement agencies, eventually cracked the case.

As investigators drew closer to uncovering the suspects, they gave them a chance to return the outfits. Police soon decided they were barking up the wrong tree and proceeded with the criminal case.

The arrests come three months after the two bulldog costumes disappeared from their storage space at Hinkle Fieldhouse, headquarters of Butler athletics.

The costumes were reported missing Aug. 21, a few weeks before the start of the football season. The university went through the entire football season without the costumed bulldog patrolling the sidelines, while new outfits were ordered from Street Characters of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Now, with a Butler home basketball game against Ball State University scheduled for Wednesday, the first of the replacement costumes is ready to go. Looking just like the old costumes but with improved ventilation, two new costumes will be completed at a cost of \$7,000 each.

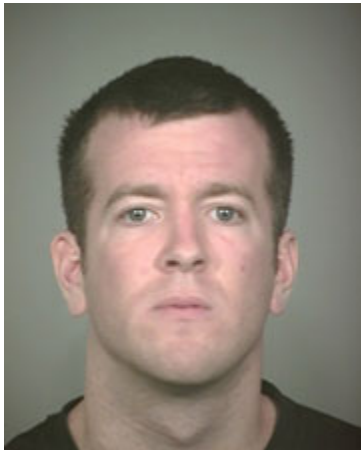
As part of the prosecution, Johnson said, the university would like reimbursement for the damage and replacements.

[Back to Top](#)

Four arrested in Butler bulldog costume theft

Posted: Nov 14, 2008 03:38 PM EST

Updated: Nov 15, 2008 12:36 AM EST



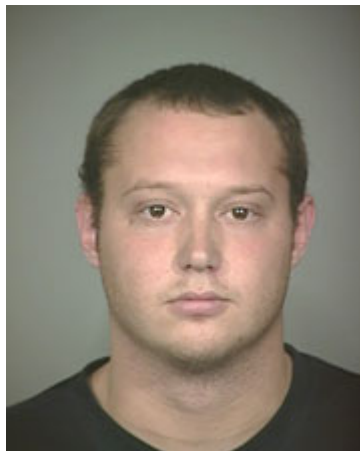
Kevin Templeman



Brian Templeman



Austin Egenolf



Rick Darragh

Indianapolis - Four people have been arrested in connection with two mascot costumes stolen from the Butler campus.

A tip led police to the arrests of 23-year-old Kevin Templeman, 20-year-old Brian Templeman and Austin Egenolf and Rick Darragh, who are both 21. Metro Police and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center assisted BUPD in obtaining information on the suspects.

"Who knows what goes through the minds of individuals like that," said Butler's VP of student affairs, Dr. Levester Johnson.

Butler University Police say the suspects are not affiliated with the university.

Police say the [costumes were taken](#) from Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse on Aug. 21 and brought to a residence the suspects were renting near the fieldhouse.

The theft prompted a massive search and pleas from the person behind the Butler Blue mascot on game days.

"It is generally stored in a secure place and one afternoon, it was just discovered it was gone," the student mascot said shortly after the theft.

It turns out that while the mascot was missing - including the entire football season - Butler Blue was being held hostage in the shadow of his home, right across the street from Hinkle Fieldhouse.

"After issuing out a reward for information, we actually did receive a tip," Dr. Johnson said.

The tip led university police to a house near campus which the suspects had rented for the summer. While the costumes and the suspects no longer lived at the home, police eventually tracked them down.

The suspects are charged with a Class D Felony for possession of stolen property and a Class C Felony for burglary. The university says the tipster will get a reward.

Pieces of the costumes were recovered by Butler Police, but due to their condition, they cannot be used again.

"There was an eye missing. One of the jowls was severely damaged, one of the ears was mangled and really ripped apart. It was disfigured pretty heavily," Dr. Johnson said.

Two new bulldog costumes have been ordered from Street Characters in Canada. One of the costumes is expected to arrive by Nov. 18. The new costumes are valued at approximately \$14,000. The university hopes to be reimbursed for that cost.

"Let's just say that, moving forward, the new mascot will definitely be under severe lock and key and double lock and key," Dr. Johnson said.

The bulldog is the mascot of Butler athletic teams. The University has had someone dressing in a bulldog costume at campus events for nearly 20 years. The stolen costumes had been in use for nine years.

[Back to Top](#)



Public invited to hazard mitigation meeting

The Jasper County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee will host a strategy planning session at 6 p.m. (CST) November 20 at the Jasper County Courthouse in the Commissioners' conference room on the second floor.

Over the last six months, the Steering Committee has been working on developing an All Hazard Mitigation Plan for the county. The committee has been working with the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission and the Polis Center at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis to put together a plan to submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval.

Completion of the All Hazard Mitigation Plan is critical to Jasper County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requiring each unit of government in the United States to have a FEMA approved All Hazard Mitigation Plan. These plans will serve as the framework for developing hazard mitigation projects that will help reduce the negative impact of future disasters on the community.

Examples of projects that have been completed by some communities include storm shelters, warning sirens, flood walls, and fire protection enhancements.

In 2003, Jasper County completed a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that identified the principle natural hazards to Jasper County including river flooding, flash flooding, severe winter weather, lightening related to heavy thunderstorms and tornados. The plan also identified Jasper County's principle technological hazards including structural fires, hazardous material events, air transportation accidents and hazardous material transportation accidents.

The CEMP determined what activities would need to take place in case of emergency events.

The Steering Committee has been charged with reviewing previous planning efforts, updating information where necessary. The Steering Committee identified the following hazards: flooding, tornado, thunderstorms/high winds/hail, severe winter storms, and hazardous materials release.

The Steering Committee selected hazards for Polis to model in HAZUS-MH, a GIS based risk mitigation tool developed by FEMA. HAZUS-MH is capable of predicting probable impact of specific disasters in terms of financial, human life and safety and other potential impacts.

At the November 20th meeting, the Steering Committee will be formulating strategies and mitigation activities for each potential disaster. After the plan is completed, the Committee will be seeking FEMA approval. The Committee will also be working to develop funding for mitigation activities that are identified.

The Steering Committee is interested in receiving public input on the plan. Anyone who has questions or would like to provide input should contact Karen Wilson, Jasper County Emergency Management Director, 219-866-1352, or Ed Gutwein at the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission, 219-863-3711.

[Back to Top](#)

Local firefighters heroes honored

Friday, November 14, 2008

By Anna Rochelle, Staff Writer

People in Lyons already knew three firefighters were heroes after they rescued a woman from her burning home in September.

Last weekend the firefighters were publicly recognized and awarded several medals of valor.

Ron Sparks and Charles Fish of the Lyons Volunteer Fire Department and Raymond Worland of the Switz City (Fairplay-Grant Township) Volunteer Fire Department each received two distinguished awards during a special dinner in their honor Saturday evening at the Lyons fire station.

From the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) and Department of Homeland Security, each man was ceremoniously presented with two Medals of Valor.

The medals from the IVFA were the first ever presented in the state of Indiana. And from the State Fire Marshal -- the medals were said to be one of the highest awards that can be bestowed upon a volunteer firefighter in Indiana.

The honors came as a result of the actions the three men took to save a life, at great risk to their own, during a house fire on Sept. 20 in Lyons.

The fire was reported at 1:15 p.m. by a neighbor who had heard a loud noise like something blew up -- like maybe an aerosol can. When the neighbor looked toward the direction of the noise, he saw some smoke coming out from around the flu pipe on the roof of Judith Kirk's home on N. Wine St. The neighbor called 911.

When firefighters arrived, there was smoke showing but no blaze. Firefighters thought Kirk was inside but she did not respond and the door was locked. They knocked the door in and smoke came rolling out.

Equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus, the three men went in but couldn't find her on the first try.

Lyons VFD Chief Larry Russell said they didn't give up and went in again despite thick smoke.

"They went in once and couldn't find her. She was on the couch and that was a little ways inside, away from the door. They couldn't see for the smoke. They were on their hands and knees but on that second trip in, they got her," said Russell.

Kirk was treated by emergency personnel on the scene before being transported to Greene County General Hospital. She was then transferred by air ambulance to the burn unit of Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis. At age 69, Kirk lived alone and had limited mobility -- she used a walker with wheels to get around. Unfortunately, her injuries proved to be too much and she passed away at the hospital a few days after the fire.

Thanks to the three firefighters who carried her out, she did not die in the fire.

Russell noted the department's quick response time (two minutes) that day also made a difference -- Sparks also serves as the Lyons Town Marshal, and Worland, a Switz City firefighter who lives in Lyons close to Kirk's house, had his turn-out gear with him in his truck.

Russell said the awards came about after the State Fire Marshal heard about their actions while he was at a meeting in Jasonville.

About 85 firefighters, most from Lyons and Switz City, and their family members filled the fire station Saturday night to honor the three men. The state and district "Miss Flame" honorees were there too -- escorted by a IVFA district chairman.

All were treated to dinner prepared by Sue Fainot of the Lyons Value Market who donated her time as well as the meal.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office was represented by Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Bennett and Deputy Fire Marshal Stan Capobianco. The Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association was represented by IVFA President Tim Deckard and District Six Chairman Jerry Sprague.

It was reported there were few dry eyes in the station when the two medals were placed around the neck of each of the three firefighters.

© Copyright 2008, Greene County Daily World
Story URL: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1478297.html>

[Back to Top](#)

Fire Marshal: School Blaze Intentionally Set

Authorities Seek Help In Arson Investigation

POSTED: 12:55 pm EST November 11, 2008

UPDATED: 1:00 pm EST November 11, 2008

YORKTOWN, Ind. -- The Indiana State Fire Marshal said Tuesday that a weekend fire at a Delaware County school was intentionally set.

The fire was reported at about 2 a.m. Saturday in the pre-school area of Heritage Hall Christian School.

Investigators were called in from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The pre-school building was destroyed. The junior-senior high school, fine arts center and auditorium also had smoke damage.

A group of parents who were waiting on students to return from a field trip spotted the fire.

"Had they not been here, the fire would have been much more advanced before we got the call," said Yorktown Fire Chief David Coffin. "It probably would have been a very different story."

The school's headmaster, Dennis Ice, said he can't imagine why anyone would set the building on fire.

"I don't think anybody that has any kind of normal thinking process would do it, but there are people out there that don't always think right," Ice said.

The school has insurance, but they need help to replace some supplies for younger children.

Authorities asked anyone with information about the fire to call the Arson Hot Line at 800-382-4628.

Related To Story



The Indiana Fire Marshal says someone set Heritage Hall Christian School on fire.

[Back to Top](#)



November 11, 2008

Arson suspected in Heritage Hall fire

THE STAR PRESS

MUNCIE — The Indiana State Fire Marshal has said that Saturday morning's fire at Heritage Hall Christian School was likely arson.

The state office issued a statement today asking citizens to provide any information about the fire to the Arson Hotline at (800) 382-4628 or ATF at (888) ATF-FIRE or (317) 287-3500.

The fire that originated in the preschool area of Heritage Hall Christian School around 2 a.m. has been determined an intentionally set fire, according to the release.

The Fire Investigation branch of IDHS and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) will continue investigating the fire and are looking for information that will help in finding the person(s) responsible.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal is a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

[Back to Top](#)

NEWS TALK 1010 – WCSI

USGS Releases Flood Report

The flood that hit Columbus and south-central Indiana in June caused millions in damage and the effects are still being felt today. So what caused the flood and what can be done to prevent it? The U.S. Geological Survey has released a 15 page study on how the flood happened. Scott Morlock, who headed the team that wrote the study, hopes the report will help local, state, and federal leaders put policies into place that will lessen the impact of the next big flood.

"I think Columbus, as far as the severity and magnitude of the flood, was one of the worst hit areas in the state," Morlock said.

USGS scientists surveyed hundreds of high water marks along about 50 miles of rivers and streams, allowing them to put together flood impact maps to show where the water was and how deep it got. The flood on Hawcreek, the Flatrock River, and East Fork of the White River in Columbus and three other streams or rivers around Indiana were considered more than a 100-year flood. Morlock cautions that doesn't mean it will be 99 years before another one hits.

"It's really a statistical measure," said Morlock. "In any year there's a 1% chance of getting the 100 year flood."

The set up for the flood was text book according to Morlock. Their group found that the ground was severely saturated from a wet spring. A front stalled out over central Indiana dropping up to 10 inches of rain in some areas. In Owen County, Morlock says the rainfall rate was something only seen once in a thousand years. All of that rain had to flow south and that's what hit Columbus by Saturday afternoon.

Morlock says there wasn't a whole lot that could have been done to prevent the flood entirely due to the extreme amounts of rain that fell.

Read the entire study: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1322/>

[Back to Top](#)



FEMA: Residents must protect themselves against floods

BY

CARMEN

McCOLLUM

cmccollum@nwi.com

219.662.5337 | Monday, November 17, 2008

A FEMA mitigation expert said there are some things owners of homes and businesses can do to mitigate flood damage to their properties.

[Graphic: Learn more about the levees on the Little Calumet River.](#)

Virginia Hale is stationed at the Munster disaster recovery office where she takes the time to talk to residents who have questions on mitigation. She has been in the region for several weeks following the President Bush's disaster declaration for numerous Indiana counties, including Lake, Porter and LaPorte, following September flooding.

Hale said there are some things residents can do to minimize flooding. That includes cleaning out the main drains and removing trees or limbs that might be blocking water flow or gutters. She said communities should make sure that nearby creeks and rivers are clear of debris and not blocking water run-off.

She also said people can elevate their electrical system by putting plugs higher on the wall, put their furnace on cinder blocks and elevate washers, dryers and hot water tanks. Hale also suggested residents raise the air conditioner outside about 2 feet off the ground with cinder blocks.

Residents with a bathroom in the basement might want to install a backflow valve, Hale said. The valves range from relatively inexpensive PVC pipe to a cast iron system that costs about \$1,500.

By virtue of a community's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, it agrees to enforce its flood plain regulations. If a person does not elevate or floodproof when requested, a community could take legal action against the resident.

Marsha Strode Gray, who lives with her mother, Barbara Strode, on Jefferson Avenue, said when she applied to FEMA, she received information on how to mitigate against floodwaters in the future. She said the furnace has been put on blocks, but she thinks the ultimate solution will be completing the levee project in Munster.

"People are worried that it's going to happen again. Some people are talking about moving and selling their homes, but it's a bad time to sell a house right now," she said.

Meanwhile, Hale said FEMA does not make a third trip to help residents. When a federal disaster is declared, FEMA and other agencies are immediately called to the scene to assist. However, FEMA has a provision against repetitive loss.

"If it's considered repetitive loss and the homeowner has not done anything to mitigate the damage, FEMA will not come back a third time," she said, adding this is the first time they've been to the Northwest Indiana area.

Hale also said some communities, like where she lives in northern California, host awareness months on all sorts of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and fires.

FEMA spokesman Mel Jenkins said communities and residents have to take responsibility.

"We're not here just to pick up the pieces, we also want to make sure that residents are more prepared when natural disasters strike," he said.

Copyright © 2008 nwi.com

[Back to Top](#)